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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/823,328	03/29/2001	Yusuke Tsutsui		8119

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EXAMINER

LE, DINH THANH

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2816

DATE MAILED: 11/18/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/823,328

Applicant(s)

TSUTSUI ET AL.

Examiner

DINH T. LE

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 27 August 2002.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 6-12 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 6-12 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s) _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

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FINAL REJECTION

Response to Applicant's Amendment

The cancellation of claims 1-5 is confusing because page 9 of the amendment states that claims 1-5 were canceled but these claims are still listed as "unchanged". Clarification is required.

The drawings remain objected to in that "Figures 1-2" should be labeled as --Prior Art--. Correction is required.

The rejection under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, is withdrawn because the claims were canceled.

Claim Rejections

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

Claim 6-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Correction or clarification is required.

In claim 6, the description of the present invention is incomplete because the claimed supply circuit does not have an output. Thus, the claimed circuit may not perform the recited function. Also, the recitation "the control circuit generating a boosted voltage" on line 17 and "a power supply clock used to control the alternative connecting of the switches" on lines 18-19 is misdescriptive and confusing because the function of the control circuit is not boosting function and the power supply clock can not generate the boosted voltage while this voltage is generated

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by the control circuit. It is unclear how this limitation is read on the preferred or can be determined on the drawings. The same is true for claim 7.

In claim 7, it is unclear how the control circuit can suspend the generation of the clock, where the power save control instruction is and where it come from. The same is true for claims 9-10.

In claims 9-10, the recitation "the input voltage" on line 6 lacks antecedent basis.

In claim 12, it is unclear how at least "two power supply circuits" is read on the preferred embodiment or can be determined on the drawings and how they can be interconnected to the driving circuit .

The remaining claims are dependent from the above rejected claims and therefore also considered indefinite.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 6-12 are rejected under 35 USC 103 (b) as being unpatentable over Figures 1-2 of the applicant's admitted prior art.

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As the best construed, Figures 1-2 of the admitted prior art discloses a circuit having all of the limitations of the claimed invention but does not disclose that the system clock is provided from the outside of the supply circuit. However, as notoriously well known in the art, the circuit of the admitted of the prior art can operate with an external clock. Thus, selecting the system clock is a considered to be a matter of a design expedient for an engineer depending upon a particular application. Lacking of showing any criticality, a skilled artisan would have been obvious to employ the external system clock in the circuit of the admitted prior art for accommodating a predetermined system.

Response to Applicant's Arguments

The applicant argues that the power supply clock of the prior art uses the system clock that is external to the charge pump. The argument is not persuasive because, as discussed above, the circuit of the admitted prior art can operate with an external system clock. Thus, selecting the system clock is considered to be a matter of a design expedient for an engineer .

Conclusion

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO**

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MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Examiner Dinh Le whose telephone number is (703) 305-3790. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Friday from 7:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Tim Callahan, can be reached on (703) 308-4876. The fax phone number for this Group is (703) 308-7725.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0956.

November 11, 2002

DINH LE
Primary Examiner

